

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/601,211

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Applicant(s)

MICHLIN, STEVEN BRUCE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 1/27/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-30 is the inclusion of a seal assembly having a main body portion including a first layer defining a first opening, an adherent layer with at least one masking region covered by at least one kiss-cut release liner; a tear-able layer adhered to the first surface of the adherent layer except where the at least one masking region is covered by the kiss-cut release liner. The kiss-cut release liner is covered by the tear-able layer and a pull-strip is connected to the tear-able layer. This is found in all of claims 1-30, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 31 and 34 is the inclusion of a method of forming a seal assembly by forming a kiss-cut in the first release layer to generate a masking portion and a removable non-masking portion and an open central region forming a full cut opening through at least the first release layer and the adherent layer; removing the open central region to unblock the opening through at least the first release layer and the adherent layer; removing the removable non-masking portion of the first release layer to generate an exposed portion of the first adhesive surface of the adherent layer; placing a tearing layer over the exposed portion of the first adhesive surface of the adherent layer and over the masking portion of the release layer; wherein the masking portion of the first release layer prevents a portion of the tearing layer from adhering to the adherent layer; wherein there is a pull-strip attached to the seal

assembly. This is found in all of claims 31 and 34, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 32, 36, and 38 is the inclusion of a method of forming a seal assembly by providing a main body portion including a first layer defining a first opening, forming a kiss-cut fully through the release layer, wherein the kiss-cut separates the release liner layer into at least one masking portion and at least one non-masking portion; removing the non-masking portion of release liner layer to generate an exposed portion of the adherent layer thereby further provided a non-exposed portion of the adherent layer under the masking portion of the release liner layer; adhering a layer of tear-able material to the exposed portion of the adherent layer, wherein a pull-strip is attached to the layer of tear-able material. This is found in all of claims 32, 36, and 38 but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 33-35 and 37 is the inclusion of a method of forming a shipping seal assembly for a toner hopper or toner storage tank by forming a kiss-cut in the first release layer to generate a masking portion and a removable non-masking portion and forming a full cut causing a separation between usable material and waste material to be discarded and thereby forming an opening through at least the first release layer and the adherent layer; removing the waste material to unblock the opening through at least the first release layer and the adherent layer; removing the removable non-masking portion of the first release layer to generate an exposed portion of the first adhesive surface of the adherent layer; placing a tearing layer over the exposed portion of the first adhesive surface of the adherent layer and

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over the masking portion of the release layer; wherein the masking portion of the first release layer prevents a portion of the tearing layer from adhering to the adherent layer; wherein there is a pull-strip attached to the shipping seal assembly; and removing the second release layer and installing the shipping seal assembly on the attach surface of the toner hopper or toner storage tank. This is found in all of claims 33-35, and 37, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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